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Application Number	10/624,745
Filing Date	07/21/2003
First Named Inventor	Alexander Bubb
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	WSP:216 US

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Date	10/	28/03	Telephone					
NOTE: Signatures of more than one signat	of all the inventors ture is required, see	or assignees of record of the entire below*.	interest or the	r repres	enta	tive(s) are required.	Submit m	nultiple forms if
■ *Total of		e submitted.						

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.33. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 3 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

U.S. Patent No. 3,826,509 (SMOLKA), issued on July 30, 1974, is cited in the aforementioned search report as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) with regard to the invention recited in claim 1 of Applicants' aforementioned priority application, and as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claim 5 of Applicants' aforementioned priority application. Figure 3 of U.S. '509 is cited in the search report as being pertinent.

U.S. Patent No. 3,776,566 (SMOLKA), issued on December 4, 1973, is cited on the annex of the aforementioned search report as being a family member document of US '566.

French Patent Publication No. 2 418 657 (LOOK S.A.), published on September 28, 1979, is cited in the aforementioned search report as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1, 2, and 4 of Applicants' aforementioned priority application. Fig. W of FR '657 is cited on the annex of the aforementioned search report as being pertinent.

In addition to the documents cited above, Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the following seven documents that are pertinent for reasons cited in the specification of the instant application (see paragraphs 0007-0009 thereof):

- U.S. Patent No. 4,121,854 (CORNU), issued on October 24, 1978;
- U.S. Patent No. 4,160,555 (SALOMON), issued on July 10, 1979;
- U.S. Patent No. 4,383,702 (SALOMON), issued on May 17, 1983;

European Patent No. 0 346 414 (IMPLEMENTORS OVERSEAS LIMITED), published on December 20, 1989;

French Patent Publication No. 2 351 678 (SOCIETE ANONYME ETABLISSEMENTS FRANÇOIS SALOMON ET FILS), published on December 16, 1977;

French Patent Publication No. 2 364 045 (ETABLISSEMENTS RUGGIERI), published on April 7, 1978;

French Patent Publication No. 2 374 922 (S.A. des Etablissements François SALOMON & Fils), published on July 21, 1978.

International Patent Publication No. WO 89/04701 (IMPLEMENTORS OVERSEAS LIMITED), published on Jun 1, 1989, is a family member of aforementioned EP '414.

In addition, Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the following four documents that are pertinent for reasons cited in the specification of the instant application (see paragraph 0052 thereof):

U.S. Patent No. 4,160,555 (SALOMON), issued on July 10, 1979 (cited in paragraph 0007 of the specification, as mentioned above);

U.S. Patent No. 4,191,395 (SALOMON), issued on March 4, 1980;

French Patent Publication No. 2 351 678 (SOCIETE ANONYME ETABLISSEMENTS FRANÇOIS SALOMON ET FILS), published on December 16, 1977 (cited in paragraph 0007 of the specification, as mentioned above);

French Patent Publication No. 2 363 343 (SOCIETE ANONYME ETABLISSEMENTS FRANÇOIS SALOMON ET FILS), published on March 31, 1978.

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609, a copy of each of the above-mentioned documents is attached. Further, each is listed on the attached PTO-1449 form to permit the Examiner to indicate his or her consideration thereof.

Appln. No. 10/630,662 P23919.A01 (S 1015/US)

The Examiner is requested to consider the documents cited above and to confirm such consideration by appropriately initialling the listings on the PTO-1449 form and returning a copy of the initialled form to Applicants.

Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone or fax number given below.

Respectfully submitted, Jean-Pierre RIGAL et al.

Coreland

James L. Rowland Reg. No. 32,674

October 30, 2003 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 Roland Clarke Place Reston, VA 20191

(703) 716-1191 (telephone) (703) 716-1180 (fax)

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